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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 CU-02 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7142
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
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USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR CSCE PL US
SUBJ: POLISH COMMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: (A) WARSAW 1612, (B) WARSAW 1882

1. TWO ARTICLES IN TRYBUNA LUDU OF MARCH 17 DEAL WITH "HUMAN RIGHTS" IN SPECIFIC TERMS. STANISLAW GLABINSKI, IN A PIECE ENTITLED "USA: HUMAN RIGHTS FOR INTERNAL USE AND FOR EXPORTS", WRITES THAT AMERICAN USE OF THE TERM "LITERALLY MEANS THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT STRIVES FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR PERSONAL SAFETY, JOBS, EDUCATION, AND STATE SERVICES." MOREOVER, FOR SEVERAL WEEKS VARIOUS SOCIAL GROUPS HAVE SPOKEN OUT AGAINST THE "DIVERGENCE BETWEEN DAILY PRACTICE AND GOVERNMENTAL PROPAGANDIS-
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TIC RHETORIC." ACCORDING TO GLABINSKI, THE QUESTIONS ARE HOW SAFETY CAN BE GUARANTEED WITH RISING TERRORISM AND OPEN SALES OF HANDGUNS AND HOW JUSTICE CAN BE GUARANTEED WHEN WEALTHY PEOPLE BUY THEIR WAY OUT OF JAIL AND HAVE MORE MEANS TO AVOID SENTENCING.

2. HE GOES ON TO SAY THAT IN TERMS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE ILL-DEFINED TERM "HUMAN RIGHTS" IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE A DOCTRINE

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ALLOWING WASHINGTON TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES ON A SELECTIVE BASIS. THE SOVIET UNION AND EUROPEAN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ARE SINGLED OUT, WHILE CHINA IS EXCEPTED. GLABINSKI CONCLUDES "SUCH A DOCTRINE CERTAINLY HAS NOTHING IN COMMON WITH HUMAN RIGHTS AS IT IS GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD. IT IS SIMPLY ONE OF THE SUCCESSIVE DOCTRINES OF THE CAPITALIST WORLD IN ITS CONTEST WITH SOCIALISM. OF COURSE THE AVERAGE AMERICAN DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THIS, AND THEREFORE ASKS ME ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN MY COUNTRY."

3. THE PAP REPORT ENTITLED, "THE BASIC RIGHT TO WORK -- A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT OF SOCIALISM", IN THE SAME EDITION OF TRYBUNA LUDU, PICKS UP WHERE GLABINSKI LEFT OFF WITH THE COMMENT THAT READING THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS RECENTLY SIGNED BY POLAND (REF A) "STIMULATES ONE TO MANY REFLECTIONS AND COMPARISONS WHICH POINT TO THE ENORMOUS CHANGES WHICH SOCIALISM HAS EFFECTED IN OUR COUNTRY." THE ARTICLE SAYS THAT THE RIGHT TO WORK IS SUCH AN INTEGRAL PART OF DAILY LIFE IN POLAND THAT THE YOUNG GENERATION CAN UNDERSTAND IT ONLY BY LOOKING TO THE "MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OF THE WEST", WHERE THERE IS MASSIVE UNEM-PLOYMENT, LACK OF PROSPECTS FOR COLLEGE GRADUATES, AND DISCRI-MINATION AGAINST WOMEN. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, WORK IN POLAND IS NOT ONLY AN "ECONOMIC PRIVILEGE", BUT ALSO A "MORAL RIGHT". IT WENT ON TO ASSERT THAT SUCCESSFUL POST-WAR POLICIES TO PROVIDE FULL EMPLOYMENT HAVE RESULTED IN THE CREATION OF POLAND'S GREATEST RESOURCE, AS WELL-QUALIFIED WORK FORCE.

4. COMMENT: A PAP FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT VICE DIRECTOR TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER ON MARCH 17 THAT GLABINSKI'S ARTICLE REPRES-
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ENTED A MODERATE RESPONSE TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS DISCUSSION IN THE U.S. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT WAS THE FIRST DIRECT POLISH COMMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND SAID THAT IT WAS WRITTEN BY A REPORTER WHO "TRULY LOVES THE U.S." HE PREDICTED THAT, WHILE WE WOULD SEE MORE POLISH COMMENTARY ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OFFENSIVE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S ADMINISTRATION, THE POLISH PRESS WOULD STRIKE DIFFERENT ACCENTS FROM THAT OF THE SOVIET UNION. END COMMENT.
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Sent Date: 18-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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